UNETPSA

United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa

Questions and Answers

What is UNETPSA?

The United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa (UNETPSA) was established by the General Assembly in resolution 2349 (XXII) of 19 December 1967 by integrating earlier special programmes to assist persons from Namibia, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and Territories formerly under Portuguese administration in Africa. It is administered by the Secretary-General in consultation with the Advisory Committee on the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa, which was established by the Assembly in resolution 2431 (XXIII) of 18 December 1968, and is financed from the Trust Fund made up of voluntary contributions by States, organizations and individuals. UNETPSA is a programme that provides awards for training both within South Africa and abroad to disadvantaged South Africans and, for a transitional period ending in December 1992, to Namibian applicants. Educational and training programmes inside South Africa were mandated by General Assembly resolution 46/80 of 13 December 1991.

What are the objectives of UNETPSA?

The primary goal of UNETPSA is to contribute to human resource development for a new, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

What are the main policy directions of the Programme?

Priority funding inside South Africa and abroad (*a*) to build up institutional capacity of non-governmental organizations, and especially the historically Black and other universities and communities; (*b*) to provide Black leadership skills training in order to facilitate the transition to a non-racial and democratic South Africa and to train Black lawyers, judges etc. for the effective administration of justice in a post-apartheid South Africa. UNETPSA continues to support educational training outside of South Africa where appropriate. Priority funding abroad focuses on short-term specialized training, or post-graduate courses that are not available inside South Africa, especially in high-technology areas, in public administration, policy research, policy planning, education management, engineering and natural and applied sciences for which there is an immediate need.

UNETPSA has recently initiated projects designed to strengthen the education management capabilities of the historically Black universities.

Who administers the Programme?

At United Nations Headquarters, the Centre against Apartheid is responsible for the overall administration of the Programme. Day-to-day operations are carried out by the Fellowships Service of the Department of Economic and Social Development (DESD). Away from Headquarters, the Programme is administered by the field offices of the United Nations Development Programme for training in African and Asian countries and with the assistance of the Geneva-based DESD Office for Technical Assistance Recruitment and Fellowships, which handles applications for training in Europe.

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What are the criteria for new awards?

a **Who is eligible?**

Applicants from South Africa, and, for a transitional period ending on 31 December 1992, applicants from Namibia, are eligible for new awards under the Programme. Awards are given to individuals on the basis of merit, financial need and the importance of their field of study, with due regard to institution-building and human resource needs in South Africa during the transition and beyond. Priority consideration is given to applicants from inside South Africa, particularly those who have guaranteed job placement upon completion of their specialized training. As returnability and employability have become criteria for the selection of applicants and subsequent awards, greater emphasis is placed on co-sponsorship arrangements with other non-governmental scholarship agencies, educational and other institutions in South Africa and abroad that undertake to assist in job placement for UNETPSA graduates.

b **What are the priority fields of study?**

UNETPSA has identified the following priority fields of study: accounting; business management; educational management; teacher training; mining; mechanical, civil and chemical engineering; dentistry; medicine; nursing; pharmacy; public health; law; sciences (including computer science, chemistry, mathematics, physics, bio-technology, etc.); high- and mid-level management; agricultural sciences, public administration, policy analysis and planning; and communications and information technology. These priority fields are reviewed from time to time to adjust to human resources requirements in South Africa.

c **Are there age qualifications for UNETPSA candidates?**

Yes. Awards are normally given to candidates between the ages of 16 and 35. Applicants outside this age group may be considered in special circumstances, especially if the courses envisaged are for advanced short-term training, skills upgrading or post-graduate studies.

d **Does UNETPSA provide funds for maintenance of families?**

There are no funds available for the maintenance of families or dependants of scholarship holders.

e **Under what circumstances is travel assistance provided?**

Before a programme commences, UNETPSA can provide travel assistance as part of an approved award for a student commencing studies within Africa only. Travel assistance to high-cost countries is not provided.

Throughout the duration of the award, there is no travel allowance for vacations or emergency needs.

Within 12 months of the completion of a programme for which the award was made, UNETPSA provides repatriation assistance for a graduate from the country of study to South Africa. UNETPSA graduates are expected to return to South Africa and are encouraged to begin searching for employment one year before their expected date of graduation.

f **What levels of study are covered by the Programme?**

Scholarships are available for academic, vocational and professional education at the post-secondary level and above. Priority consideration is given by UNETPSA for awards for a first degree in South Africa and other low-cost countries. A few awards for short-term specialized training and graduate studies in priority fields are generally offered and tenable at universities in high-cost countries. In granting these few awards due consideration is given to those applicants from inside South Africa who can resume their former jobs or secure new jobs that are commensurate with their newly acquired expertise. Employment of graduates in South Africa is critical because the ultimate success of the Programme will be judged not only by the number of graduates, types and levels of programmes sponsored by UNETPSA but also by the impact that these graduates have, through their professional competence and expertise, on the economic and social development of South Africa.

g **Where are scholarship awards tenable?**

Scholarships are awarded for studies both within South Africa and abroad. Preference is given to studies in educational and training institutions in South Africa and other low-cost countries so as to train as many students as possible with the limited funds available.

A limited number of scholarships are available for study in North America, Europe and Japan. Due to the high cost of study in these areas, the Programme normally extends only partial assistance to those applicants, and awards are granted primarily at the master's

degree level or to applicants completing professional degree programmes. Priority consideration is given to South African applicants who are employed and need to upgrade their skills and knowledge or to applicants inside South Africa who are assured employment by communities, NGOs, the private sector, educational institutions etc.

h **For what duration are scholarship awards made?**

Awards are initially granted for one year or less, with expectation of renewal, subject to availability of resources and evidence of satisfactory academic performance, for up to a maximum of four years of study towards a bachelor's degree, two years for a master's degree and three for a Ph.D. In cases where students have already commenced a degree programme, the maximum duration is adjusted accordingly.

i **How are decisions on awards made?**

At Headquarters, decisions on awards in high-cost countries are made on the recommendation of a selection panel composed of representatives from the Office of Human Resources Management, the Department of Economic and Social Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Centre against Apartheid and the Department of Political Affairs.

UNDP field offices in Africa, Asia and Latin America are responsible for the screening, evaluation and nomination of applicants for study in the countries within their jurisdiction. The awards, however, are finalized by the Administration of the Programme at Headquarters. Field offices are also responsible for the local administration of awards.

j **Does UNETPSA monitor the progress of its graduates upon completion of the awards?**

UNETPSA staff at Headquarters and UNDP field offices have been requested to monitor the returnability and employability of graduates. In this connection, former and future UNETPSA graduates are requested to keep UNDP offices and UNETPSA Headquarters informed of their career plans once they return home and to respond to a post-award questionnaire one year after their repatriation. An Association of Former UNETPSA Graduates has been established in South Africa for the mutual benefit of graduates and the Programme. The address of the Association is:

Interim Coordinator
Association of Former UNETPSA Graduates
P.O. Box 25273
Ferreirastown
Johannesburg, South Africa

k **Where do candidates apply for a UNETPSA scholarship?**

Applicants intending to undertake short-term specialized training or to pursue their studies in the Americas and Japan should forward their applications to:

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development
Fellowships Service
Room DC1-1568
United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Applicants intending to undertake short-term specialized training or to pursue their studies in Europe should apply to:

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development
Technical Assistance Recruitment and Fellowship Office
Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland

Applicants intending to study in Africa and other low-cost countries should apply to local UNDP offices, either in the country of study or in their country of residence.
For applicants from inside South Africa and other applicants, application forms are available from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development, Fellowships Service, UNETPSA, Room DC1-1568, United Nations, New York, New York 10017, or from the nearest UNDP offices in Botswana, Lesotho or Swaziland, whose addresses are as follows:

UNDP
P.O. Box 54
Barclays Bank Building
The Mall
Gaborone, Botswana

UNDP
P.O. Box 301
BNP Center (corner of Parliament and Airport Roads)
Maseru, Lesotho

UNDP
Private Bag
Embassy House
Morris Street
Mbabane, Swaziland

What are the application requirements for a UNETPSA award?

The Programme will consider only complete applications, which should include (i) the letter(s) of acceptance at the school(s) of the applicant's choice, (ii) information on co-sponsorship arrangements (where applicable), (iii) proof of nationality and (iv) certified copies of transcripts and diplomas obtained and other supporting evidence.

United Nations Centre against Apartheid

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